SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT #1

Jeffries Journal

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Kevin's Corner

Unlike the past 10 years of publications, this month my corner is dedicated to only one topic. It's a topic that tops the chart of ongoing complaints to our office and to most city halls. The following is largely written by my Chief of Staff Jeff Greene, who has the pleasure of working day to day with all the departments who work on homeless issues in the First District.

The two (2) issues/complaints we hear about are traffic congestion (freeway parking lots) and the growing homeless challenge. Here is a summary of what we are doing now, and some potential changes in the law that MAY allow the county and cities to more effectively manage the homeless problems in our County. I'll start with a few of the things that we are doing right on the issue: 1) The county has been very aggressive in prioritizing services for homeless veterans. We were one of the first agencies in the country to declare "functional zero" homeless veterans, meaning every homeless veteran who wanted assistance was receiving housing. That means almost anyone you see with a "help a homeless veteran" sign is either new to the area, has repeatedly refused assistance, or is lying. 2) We have been very successful in housing women with children. They have the other highest priority in our system, and it is very rare you will see a woman with children homeless on the streets. Odds are extremely good that if you see someone with kids panhandling, they are grifters using their kids as marketing tools. 3) Unlike many major cities and regions, you almost never see permanent tent encampments on roads, sidewalks, and parks. Our law enforcement has been pretty good about not allowing them to get established in public rights of way. 4) The County is partnering more closely than ever with cities in coordinating efforts to provide services for those willing to accept them, including behavioral health interventions and major encampment events where multiple county agencies join with city agencies to clear impacted areas while offering services to those being displaced. One of the best examples of this is the Santa Ana River Bottom Collaborative, which has removed multiple tons of trash, removed dozens of cars, and assisted well over 100 residents of the river bottom.

That all being said, we struggle mightily with other parts of the crisis: 1) It can take years to clear an encampment off private property if we do not have a cooperative owner, as we must utilize the courts to take possession of the property and order a clean up. If we can't even identify the owner (due to death or unclear title), it can take even longer. 2) We can do very little about the zombie homeless that wander our sidewalks, stumble into our streets, and approach us while shopping or pumping gas. Simply being intoxicated or high is really not a crime in California any more, and the loss of the ability to threaten imprisonment for petty thefts, vandalism, and trespassing has made it nearly (Continued to page 2)



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impossible to force them into treatment in exchange for not going to jail. 3) Similarly, even the most obviously impaired/sick/comatose persons on the sidewalks largely can't be forced into treatment, as the state's definition of "gravely disabled" or a "danger to themselves or others" (5150) has been too strict to provide any meaningful way to get them into substance abuse or behavioral health treatment for more than overnight. 4) While cheaper than LA or OC or SD, the cost of housing continues to climb, and we have very few vacancies in the rental market, to the point where even those with Section 8 housing vouchers struggle to find housing they can actually afford. Building new "affordable housing" apartments can run well over \$500,000 per unit, and are politically very difficult to approve, as NIMBYs try to prevent "those people" from moving into their area. And given the first line of this column, it is hard to fault people for opposing a large apartment complex nearby when their local roads are already at a standstill.

The good news is, there are some recent developments that MAY help us with some of these issues. 1) A bipartisan group of agencies and individuals (including San Francisco, Los Angeles, the California State Association of Counties, and even Governor Gavin Newsom!) has filed briefs asking the Supreme Court to review a pair of 9th Circuit Court decisions (Martin vs Boise and Johnson vs Grants Pass) that has handcuffed local agencies from taking action to clear dangerous and unhealthy homeless encampments without meeting unreasonable and unclear requirements first, causing many agencies to be paralyzed into inaction. It is hoped that the Supreme Court would create a more reasonable standard that would allow action by states and counties to clean these encampments and protect the public. 2) A pair of bills were recently signed by the Governor that will slightly loosen the definition of "gravely disabled" and also to make it easier to require substance abuse treatment for those convicted of drug related offenses. These could allow us to get some of these individuals into services that we previously could not. 3) Riverside County recently became one of the first in the State to implement the CARE Courts, another process where family members or law enforcement could request a temporary guardianship for a person who is unable to take care of themselves, so that we might be able to get them into treatment they otherwise have rejected. There are still steps that have to be taken, and we don't currently have sufficient bed space to treat all the people that might actually need treatment—voluntarily or otherwise, but it is another tool we can now use. 4) In an effort to make #2 and #3 more useful, the County currently has an additional 81 treatment beds under construction in Riverside, has begun moving forward with another 200 or so treatment beds at the proposed Wellness Village in Mead Valley (plus a Behavioral Health Urgent Care, for adults and youth), and if the statewide Behavioral Health bond passes in March next year, we expect to build a psychiatric hospital adjacent to the RUHS Hospital in Moreno Valley (which would also replace our dated Emergency Treatment Services (ETS) in Riverside). 5) The County is pursuing an "anticamping" ordinance for high fire and flood risk areas, that will hopefully make it easier for us to remove homeless encampments in the river bottom and in our foothills and other high fire hazard areas—I'll keep you updated on that one when we get more details.

I hope you'll forgive this longer-than-usual Kevin's Corner, but we do get a lot of complaints about this issue, and there are no easy answers to it. Hopefully this provided a little more context for some of you that have stuck with it to the end. As always, I welcome your thoughts.

Respectfully,

Kevin Jeffries—First District Supervisor

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Interested in serving your local community?

Perhaps you are more of a regional advocate?

If you live in or have a business in District #1, be sure to look at the list of openings we have below for local commissions.

CURRENT OPENINGS:

Solid Waste - One (1) Alternate Representative
Assessment Appeals Board No. 3 - One (1) Alternate
Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) - One (1) Alternate
First 5 Children & Families Advisory Committee - Two (2) Members
Good Hope Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) - One (1) Member & Two (2) Alternates
In Home Support Services (IHSS) - Recipient or Consumer of IHSS Services - One (1) opening
Behavioral Health Commission - Family Member - One (1) opening & Public Interest - One (1) opening

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions please see a link and instructions to an application below:

 $\frac{https://rivcodistrict1.org/sites/g/files/aldnop256/files/2023-08/Boards\%20and\%20Commissions\%}{20Application\%2C\%208-22-23.pdf}$



Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) is offering free rides on all local CommuterLink and GoMicro buses every Friday and will continue through June 28, 2024.

Let RTA take you to your next destination for free!

Get your Free Ride Friday Pass on the GoMobile app. It's Free!

For any questions please reach out to RTA at (951) 565-5002 or visit their website at

RiversideTransit.com

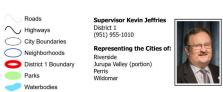
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SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1 **County of Riverside** STVALE Orange County

First District Profile



Kevin Jeffries was elected in November 2012 to Represent the residents of the 1st Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. This district covers the cities of Riverside, Perris, and Wildomar, and the unincorporated communities including Highgrove, University City, Mead Valley, Good Hope, Meadowbrook. March Joint Powers Authority, La Cresta, Tenaja, and De Luz.



NOTE: Wildomar, La Cresta, Tenaja, and De Luz will move to the 3rd District in January of 2025. Page 5 Jeffries Journal

HIGHGROVE TOWN HALL

On Wednesday, September 27th, dozens of residents attended our first Highgrove Town Hall to receive an update from Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, Riverside Auditor-Controller Ben J. Benoit, Riverside County CEO Jeff Van Wagenen, and many other Riverside County Department and Agency Directors.

Thank you to all Department Representatives, Elected Officials, Highgrove Elementary School, and the community for making our inaugural Highgrove Townhall a remarkable success!











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SANTA ROSA PLATEAU TOWN HALL

On October 10th, hundreds of residents from the Santa Rosa Plateau area attended their annual Town Hall. Constituents heard from various county departments including Sheriff, Fire Department, Emergency Management, Code Enforcement, and many more. Food was provided as was a full espresso bar of caffeinated drinks. Thank you Erin Fairfax for organizing and inviting our office for this wonderful event!





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HIGHGROVE TRUNK OR TREAT

Highgrove's Inaugural Trunk or Treat on October 28th was a success! The Trunk or Treat was held at and hosted by the Highgrove Library. Hundreds of Highgrove residents attended and kids collected candy from classic cars and County Agencies. Kids were able to play games, eat popcorn, and of course trick or treat from the many cars. Thank you to Louise Gutierrez and her team from the Highgrove Library for all their work organizing this event!









(From left to right): Highgrove Municipal Advisory Chair-Mussa Khiar, Highgrove Librarian-Louise Gutierrez, and Supervisor Jeffries' Office-Damian Fussel

GOOD HOPE / MEADOWBROOK FALL FESTIVAL

The Fall Festival for the Good Hope / Meadowbrook communities on October 28th was a blast this year, kids young and old were able to enjoy s'mores, jumpers, an obstacle course, carnival games, pumpkin patch, food, and of course a Trunk or Treat. Thanks to Noland Turnage and Alexis Statler and their fantastic team from The Grove Community Church for putting this event together, to our Riverside County Code Enforcement, Riverside County Sheriff, and Riverside County Fire Dept. Station #9, FM staff, EMD, RUHS Public Health, Riverside County Animal Services, and local business owners for participating and supporting this event.



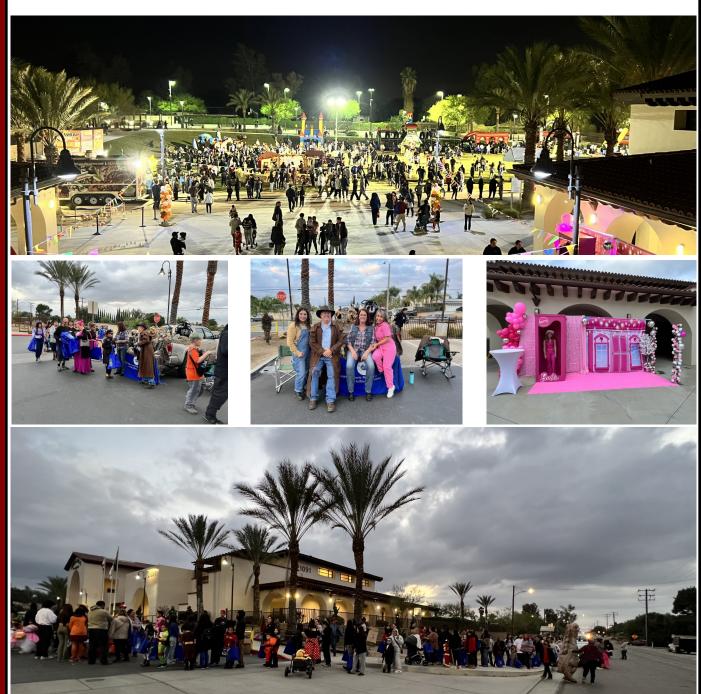




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MEAD VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL

More than 3,500 people attended the annual Mead Valley Fall Festival on October 25th and were able to enjoy different family activities such as a Trunk or Treat, pumpkin patch, laser tag, carnival games, face painting, obstacle courses, bounce houses, and food. A special thank you to Misty Felix, Noland Turnage, and Lupita Mendoza from The Grove Community Church for organizing this amazing event. Thanks to our local volunteers, MAC Board Members, Riverside County FM Staff, County Sheriff, Riverside County Code Enforcement, EMD, RUHS, and Riverside County Fire Department for supporting this event in District 1.



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MEADOWBROOK & GOOD HOPE CLEAN UP

On October 28th, the Meadowbrook & Good Hope Community had a successful clean up. 186 local residents came to drop off their waste. 490 tires, 37 mattresses, and a total of 7 Front loaders were filled. Thank you Waste Resources and Waste Management!









Future Clean Ups



Mead Valley Community Clean-Up

WHEN: November 18, 2023

TIME: 8am-12pm (or until bins are full)

WHERE: Mead Valley Landfill - 22376 Forrest Rd., Perris, CA 92570

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Washers/Dryers TVs Microwaves Air Conditioners Computers
- Refrigerators/Freezers Chairs/Couches/Tables Box Springs/Mattresses • Barbecue/Patio Furniture • Bundled Branches • Bagged Green Waste
- Tire collection limited to residents only, no tires will be accepted from business

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Latex, Oil or Paint Fluorescent Light Tubes Empty Drums Batteries
- Pool Chemicals Commercial or Remodeling Waste Automotive Oils/Cleaners & Fluids Poisons/Pesticides/Herbicides Bleach/Tub & Tile Cleaner Solvents/Gasoline
- Auto Parts & Engines Treated Wood Waste (fence posts, railroad ties)
- *Participants will be required to unload their vehicle without assistance
- * Proof of residency is required. Please bring a photo ID, along with this postcard or a Waste Management bill to the clean-up. Residents with trailers will be directed to the landfill/transfer station to unload themselves. Per State law, you must have a tire manifest to transport over 9 tires and tires must be less than 4 feet in

Please call Waste Management with any questions you may have at (800) 423-9986



Highgrove Community Clean-Up

WHEN: December 9, 2023

TIME: 8am-12pm (or until bins are full)

WHERE: Highgrove Community Center - 459 Center St, Riverside, CA 92507

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Washers/Dryers TVs Microwaves Air Conditioners Computers
- Refrigerators/Freezers Chairs/Couches/Tables Box Springs/Mattresses • Barbecue/Patio Furniture • Bundled Branches • Bagged Green Waste
- Tire collection limited to residents only, no tires will be accepted from business

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Latex, Oil or Paint Fluorescent Light Tubes Empty Drums Batteries
- Pool Chemicals Commercial or Remodeling Waste Automotive Oils/Cleaners & Fluids
- Poisons/Pesticides/Herbicides Bleach/Tub & Tile Cleaner Solvents/Gasoline
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More than 75% of a mattress can be recycled into other products, diverting valuable resources from local landfills! Learn how to recycle your mattress and free disposal options that may be available to you at ByeByeMattress.com #byebyemattress

You can visit our website <u>www.ByeByeMattress.com</u> to find a recycling location and additional information. If you would like these materials in Spanish, please let me know!

For more information about the program in your area, your local Bye Bye Mattress coordinator is Tyler Douthitt at (949) 534-6693.



Do you have one minute a month to help make Riverside County better?

Join your friends and neighbors and make your voice heard on important local issues.

The County of Riverside is working with FlashVote to gather valuable input from residents to inform decisions on programs, policies and budget.

"The input collected in these surveys will help the county find ways to serve our residents better," said Board Chair Kevin Jeffries, First District Supervisor. "The one-minute surveys will be on different topics throughout the year and sent out every one to two months."

The sign-up process takes less than one minute and the individual information collected by FlashVote is never shared with the County, nor anyone else. When residents sign up, they can determine if they want to receive the surveys by email, text or phone.

Residents will receive a notification whenever there is a new survey, and they will have 48 hours to participate before voting closes. Once a survey is closed, everyone who participated will automatically receive a summary of the overall results and be able to see how their responses compare to the group. Results are anonymous.

The county encourages residents to sign up now at http://flashvote.com/rivconow or call (775) 235-2240 to participate by phone or text only.

Participate in helping make Riverside County better. Your opinions on how local government works for you matter.

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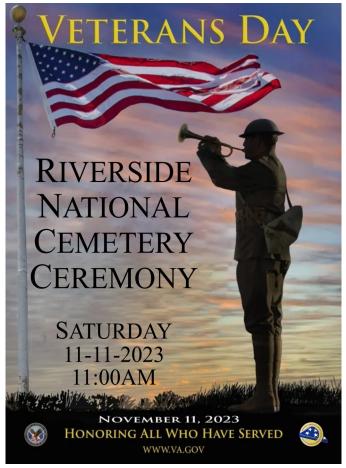
UPCOMING EVENTS IN MEAD VALLEY

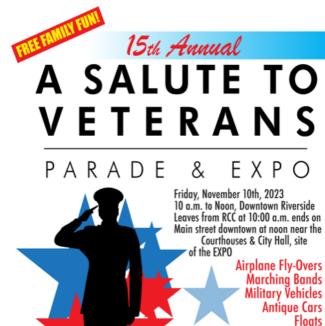




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VETERANS DAY EVENTS AND INFORMATION





Follow us on Facebook at annual salute to veterans parade email us at annualasalutetoveterans@gmail.com

Bag Pipers and Dancers Active Duty Military

Our Veterans... and more!

Join us first for a Pancake Breakfast

served in REC's lower parking lot from 7 to 9:00a.m.. To learn more, to register

ut, or to support the Parade - see our website www.asalutetoveteran.org







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Enroll today!

Riverside County Sheriff's Office Special Needs Reunification Program helps law enforcement locate missing individuals with disabilities such as autism and dementia, as well as those with behavioral health challenges.



Families can pre-register to provide a detailed physical description of their loved one, photographs, possible destinations, and suggested calming strategies. Deputies and dispatchers can immediately access the information at the time of a missing persons call, expediting a safe

The Special Needs Reunification Program is sponsored by the Riverside County Sheriff's Office and is supported by the Riverside University Health System.

THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO REUNIFY INDIVIDUALS WITH THEIR FAMILIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Register online or call any Sheriff's station for an in-person appointment.

For more information or to find a station near you, visit www.riversidesheriff.org.

Scan the OR Code to register or learn more



bit.ly/RIVCOREUN



RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Requirements to Join

- · Attend a high school within **Riverside County**
- · Be able to attend bi-weekly meetings and service events
- Eager to make changes in your community

@RivCoYAC www.rivcoyac.org

YOUTH COMMISSION

Open Recruitment!

Join the Riverside County Youth Commission today and learn how you can serve your community, gain leadership skills and make your voice heard. Serve on one of our five Youth Advisory Councils under the Board of Supervisors and become a leader of tomorrow!

Interested in joining? Scan QR code to complete an interest form:



Riverside University HEALTH SYSTEM



JOIN OUR TEAM

We are looking for professionals who We are looking for professionars who are willing to support and improve the health, safety, well-being and independence of our county's families

OPEN DPSS POSITIONS

- Eligibility Technician I/II Social Services Practitioner III
- and many more!!





BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Competitive Work Schedules
 12 Paid Holidays Per Year
 Vacation and Sick Time Accruals

- CalPERS Pension Education Support Program

APPLY TODAY!

Scan the QR code to see more employment opportunities.

For all Riverside County job openings, visit: RC-HR.com



For more information please visit us at: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/riverside/dpssjobs





The Community Assessment Transportation Team (CATT) can be requested by notifying AMR Dispatch Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

People in crisis require appropriate care at the right time and in the right treatment setting. The Community Assessment Transportation Team (CATT) partners a Behavioral Health Clinician from Riverside University Health System -Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) with an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) from American Medical Response (AMR) to respond in the field to people in crisis. CATT can assess people in crisis, provide resources, and connect them to services. This team will respond to crisis calls in the Hemet area. Examples of resources the team can help connect people to:



HOSPITAL



The clinician on the team can initiate 5150 holds.

CATT can provide the client with transportation to an LPS-approved hospital, such as ETS. If it is unsafe for the team to transport other options can be utilized, such as law enforcement or requesting a BLS

The clinician can also reassess a 5150 and interrupt a hold when the criteria is no longer met. Interrupting a 5150 hold requires a thorough assessment, a safety plan, and consultation with a supervisor. This can benefit the client by allowing them to access treatment options which are more appropriate for their needs.

The team can assist people in accessing a mental health urgent care where they can stay up to 24 hours for crisis services and stabilization.

Clients under the influence can "sober up" for up to 24 hours and be connected to ongoing treatment for substance use.

Criteria to Request CATT:

- · People in crisis
- 18 years of age or older
 - With no medical complaint or life-threatening injury

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT TRANSPORTATION TEAM

951-782-5234